

PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

Facts That Reflect the Ongoing Movement in the Imperial Domain.

THE MINES, THE MILLS, THE FIELDS

Development in Central Wyoming—Colorado's New Camps—Irrigation in Idaho—Dakota Tin Prospects—News of the Northwest.

CASPER, Wyo., Feb. 11.—(Special to THE BEE.)—The outlook for Casper in the near future is very bright.

There are two syndicates after the large fields of copper in this vicinity. One, represented by Prof. Henry Zahur of Chicago, has already got control of some seventy-five mining claims, on which it is proposed to begin extensive operations as soon as spring opens.

There are over three square miles of asbestos already located, and only this week letters have been received from English capitalists inquiring as to the number of acres that can be secured, as the quality is very rich.

Carrier & Smith have a large body of fatona ore, on which the assay shows over \$70 in value per ton.

The Blanchard syndicate, which recently obtained control of over 100,000 acres of oil land, is making preparations for a buy-sell party on the ground. The first well, located on the north side of Casper, is down over 100 feet. The company is composed of such men as Ben Blanchard of Brooklyn, N. Y., E. C. Haggitt of Omaha, E. S. Mann of Cheyenne, and other prominent men. All are pushers. They have just completed the buildings and are now drilling on a scale as they can get their drill and casing there.

The Pennsylvania Oil company is now drilling on a scale of 100 feet in two miles north of Casper on Salt creek, and expects to reach the oil sand next week. This well is only 700 feet from the company's famous creek, which has been flowing down the creek several miles. The company is composed of seven very heavy oil producers of Pennsylvania, with a capital of \$1,000,000. It is a practical oil man. Hon. P. M. Shannon is also a member of the executive committee of the Producers Protective association and one of the managers of the Pennsylvania Oil company. Two organizations in the Pennsylvania oil region are antagonistic to the Standard Oil company.

Hon. George B. McCalmont is the legal advisor and general representative of the Pennsylvania company in Wyoming, with headquarters at Casper. He says the company has expended about \$50,000 thus far and that it is not here to take a boom and sell, but to quietly drill and get the oil out, eventually, if they get sufficient oil of a quality that will warrant, to build pipe lines and erect refineries and manufacturing plants.

J. D. Nequa of Chicago has recently purchased several of the large soda lakes in this section and will erect large refining plants to reduce the soda to a marketable condition. As there are over seventy of these lakes in this county large returns are expected from them.

Irrigation in Idaho. According to a report of the bureau, four-tenths of 1 per cent of the entire area of Idaho is now cultivated by means of irrigation. This is equivalent to 217,000 acres, or 839,67 square miles.

The aggregate number of farms in Idaho on June 1, 1890, was 6,631, and of these 4,323, or about two-thirds, contained irrigated areas, the remaining third being farms in the northern counties or stock ranches upon which no irrigation was practiced. The total area of irrigated land in Idaho is 4,323 farms was only 25.07 per cent of the total area of lands owned by the irrigators. The average size of the irrigated portions of farms on which crops were raised was fifty acres. Classifying these areas according to size, the following results are obtained: Seven irrigated farms are areas only of 640 acres or upward, thirty-four of from 320 to 640 acres, and 172 of from 150 to 320 acres. These 213 crop areas contained an average of 270 acres each, and had a value of \$7,477 acres, or over 25 per cent of the entire amount watered in the state. The remaining 4,110 individual crop areas, under 150 acres in size, contained 3,700,000 acres of the total irrigated area, and averaged thirty-three acres each.

The average first cost of water right is \$1.74 per acre, and the average cost of preparing the soil for cultivation, including the purchase price of the land, but excluding the cost of water right, is \$10.50 per acre. The average present value of the irrigated lands in the state, including buildings, etc., is reported as \$46.50 per acre, showing an apparent profit, less cost of buildings, of \$31.26 per acre. The average value of the water right is \$3 cents per acre, which, deducted from the average annual value of products per acre, leaves an average annual return of \$12.12 per acre.

The Mining Case in Colorado. Not only Colorado, but every mining camp in the west is more or less affected by the stampede to the new mining camps in the Rockies. The excitement and the rush, even in midwinter, equals that of Leadville in its infancy.

Three new strikes, all located in Colorado, are attracting widespread interest. These are Creede, Cripple Creek and Boulder. The Boulder strike is one of great richness, and the camp is in the vicinity of the town of that name. Cripple Creek is in southern Colorado, ten miles distant from the Santa Fe road. Creede is on the Rio Grande road, 27 1/2 miles west of Denver. The two latter are silver camps, the former a pocket and the latter a true silver vein. Creede is considered the best of the three, and has already a population of 4,000. Five mines have been opened, and the shipments average about ten car loads of ore daily. If this production is maintained it is estimated that the year's output will be \$5,000,000. The ore is high grade, yielding about \$200 in silver per ton. Water is plentiful and abundant. People are pouring in at the rate of 200 a day, although it is utterly impossible to prospect, owing to the snow on the mountains which hides the trail valleys in which the town is located. Gamblers and saloons are reaping a harvest, while those who can furnish covered ground to sleep on gather in \$3 a head per night.

Stripping the Forests. The trail of parties charged with stealing timber from government lands in Idaho, now in progress in Boise City, furnished the sample of the common robbery of forests going on in the west. During the years 1888-90 the accused cut and sold millions of feet of government timber in Kootenai county. One witness testified that 30,000,000 feet of saw logs were delivered to the prisoners to the Spokane saw mills.

Such wholesale robbery deserves the severest punishment. Notwithstanding the liberality of the government in permitting the taking of timber for necessary domestic purposes, there are hundreds of cases like those in Idaho, illustrating the greed of the timber pirates, who open their eyes to the law and snap their fingers at the authorities. A few vigorous prosecutions and a term in jail will have a wholesome effect.

Natural Gas. The Salt Lake and Utah wells are astonishing the owners and the natives. The first sixteen-foot well, sunk some time ago, developed a pressure of 143 pounds. A ten-foot well recently sunk struck dry gas at 600 feet, with a pressure much greater than the first well. The second strike removes all doubt as to the extent and value of the find, and insures a cheap and unlimited supply of fuel for manufacturing and domestic purposes. Salt Lake is justly becoming a jubilee.

Valiant Maidens. Two valiant Santa Rosa (Cal.) maidens, the sisters Susan, aged 17, and Cora, 20, deserve to be mentioned with Omaha's heroines. A hungry tramp called at their home and was taken in and fed. The following night he called, after the girls had retired, and proceeded to rob the house. One of them,

awakened by a falling window, jumped out of bed and lit a lamp. As she did so she saw the tramp under the bed. She did not scream. She went to the bed to whisper to her sister, and as she leaned over the cot, the tramp sprang up and seized her by the hair. She screamed and her sister to get up, that there was a man in the house. The sister jumped out of bed and, grabbing a lamp, lit it. The tramp fled to the window and tried to throw her to the floor. She screamed and her sister to get up, that there was a man in the house. The intruder a blow over the head that almost sent him into the land whence no tramps ever return. Then she sprang on him and caught him by the throat, and by that time her sister, who had disengaged herself from the clutch of the man, went to his assistance. Both being well equipped with strength, they held the tramp down until a little boy was sent for an officer. When the officer arrived, he found the two women struggling with the man, and the tramp by the throat. The offender was black in the face from strangulation. His tongue was sticking out, his face was scratched and his head and forehead were covered with blood. He was taken to the hospital and died.

Dakota Tin. The Hill City Miner explored the Harney Peak tin mines recently and reports progress. The shaft of the Harney mine is down 400 feet, with laterals on the 90, 300 and 300-foot levels. The ledge varies in width from three to five feet, being fully five feet on the 400-level. It is a fact that at no place in all these openings can the ledge be scratched where tin crystals may not be seen, and both hand-bred and allotropic specimens about walls there is not sufficient rock to hold the crystals together when it has been broken. These crystals are not thickly interspersed through the entire ledge of five feet. This rich ore is not in isolated spots, but the vein on the sides of the drifts is continuous throughout the ledge. Much of this ore will mill 50 per cent black tin, and there are thousands of tons now on the dump which will yield 25 per cent of tin. The Harney mine is one of the wonderful specimens sent to London several years ago which excited the admiration of the tin miners of the world.

Salt Lake Politics. The result of the municipal election in Salt Lake City was a triumph for the Democrats. The purpose of the Gentiles to stand together in opposition to Mormon power. The attempt to divide them on republican and democratic lines failed. The Democrats secured a majority in the city was 714. Last week it was 942. The result is the election of the entire liberal city ticket—the greatest liberal victory since Utah was admitted to the Union. The Salt Lake Tribune, "is a harbinger of a prosperous year to come, and the striking of a new great natural gas well just west of the city, will give the Gentiles a man through their ballots a coincidence which makes liberal hearts jubilant with hope and satisfaction."

Boise pays \$40 per year for street illumination. The Vishnu mine at Rocky Bar turned out a \$8,000 gold brick last month. A 100-pound timber wolf was brought down with poisoned bait near Boise. The meeting of superintendents of graded schools and county superintendents will be held at Boise March 23.

The Mineral Point, Nellie, Emma and Gray Eagle claims at Osborn, in the Coeur d'Alene country, have been sold to S. J. Parry. A New York company is to erect a smelter at Osborn. A few weeks ago the skeleton of a huge mastodon was found in the bluffs on the Snake river between the mouth of the Boise and Weiser in Ada county. It has so far been carefully examined. One of the tusks was found in the road to lower the diameter of inches in diameter at its thickest part.

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present quotations these properties would close down. A total of 88,361 cars were handled at Ogden last year. A company has been organized to bore for natural gas at Ogden. A rush to the Deep Creek country is looked for this spring as soon as the winter is over. Considerable counterfeit coin is being circulated throughout southern Utah. Mineral of a high grade was discovered by an old prospector in the hills near Mantu. Brigham City is to have a cannery, creamery and cheese factory running in full blast this summer. The Ogden council has passed an ordinance providing for the issuance of \$50,000 worth of improvement bonds. Utah will exhibit a salt palace at the World's fair. Whatever else they may be Utah people don't intend to be regarded as "fresh."

The Ogden Chamber of Commerce has decided to offer a bonus in real estate to the amount of \$50,000 to encourage the establishment of a metropolitan paper in that city. This is the way the Ogden Standard puts it. The trust has been appointed and the money has been guaranteed for the power works. This mighty enterprise is now as certain as death and taxes.

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Miss Ella Blaine, who has been visiting with Lieutenant and Mrs. W. J. Nicholson of the Seventh, returned last Monday to her home in Helena, Mont. General J. W. Forsyth, Major S. M. Whitehead, Captain W. Edgerly, Seventh cavalry, attended a meeting of the Colorado commandery of the Loyal Legion which was held at Denver during the week.

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J. P. Keith, a Deadwood operator, purchased a half interest in the Josie, Annie and Katie lode on January 31, paying \$12,500. He has since been offered and refused \$30,000 for his interest. Under the head, "The Mineral Belt," the Deadwood Times reports: "Mr. and Mrs. James Cotton are relieving the arrival of a girl baby at their residence Wednesday morning."

Negotiations continue for an extra session of the legislature to provide for an exhibit at the World's fair. A call will be issued if members of the legislature agree to serve without pay. A strike of a body of free milling gold ore is reported from Sand Creek heretofore considered in the gold district. Assays made here gave returns of \$67.82. The property is owned by Daniel Wood men, who will at once proceed to develop it.

Recent developments at the Nigger Hill tin mines have been very satisfactory. A good deal of ore has been melted down in the mill, and the results are all right. The ore is high grade, yielding about \$200 in silver per ton. Water is plentiful and abundant. People are pouring in at the rate of 200 a day, although it is utterly impossible to prospect, owing to the snow on the mountains which hides the trail valleys in which the town is located. Gamblers and saloons are reaping a harvest, while those who can furnish covered ground to sleep on gather in \$3 a head per night.

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who absconded with \$30 belonging to a customer. Johnson left the shop to get the bill changed, but instead of returning kept right on going until he reached his old home in Nebraska City. A telephone message from the police located him, and Savage was sent down to bring the man back. When arrested he had only 6 cents left out of the amount stolen.

At Eden Musee. Commencing today, Mrs. Millie Price-Dow, the "Dancing Queen," who will astonish, electrically and enrapture everybody. She appears at 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10 o'clock, except Friday, then 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10 o'clock.

Caught a Pair of Sneaks. Sergeant Sigwart arrested a couple of crooks yesterday who gave their names as Griffith and King. There are both well known petty thieves, and when arrested had in their possession a couple of suits of clothes which had been stolen the day before. The clothing was identified by the owners yesterday afternoon. Both crooks were held to answer to the charge of petty larceny.

Geissler's Marieloaache Water cures all headaches in 30 minutes. At all druggists. If you desire any information or advice regarding your claim against the United States government, The Bee Bureau of Claims will furnish same free of charge.

He Tells the History of the Water Works Company's Troubles. OMAHA, Feb. 13.—To the Editor of THE BEE: The reports recently published in the water works case do not give certain important information which is necessary to a proper understanding of the matter. Please do not let the facts of this case go unrecorded. My letter to Mr. Underwood was written under the following circumstances, viz.: On the consolidation of the Omaha and Denver water works last April six directors representing Omaha and six representing Denver were elected, and W. A. Underwood was agreed upon as the thirteenth. I was of the Omaha party. When trouble commenced I went to get out, as I had only a small interest in the water works, and the result was to increase it, as I had before intended.

Mr. Underwood resigned and his resignation was accepted, leaving twelve directors, neither Omaha nor Denver having a majority